

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 054722
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:AF:BJSLATER

APPROVED BY:AF:WBHARROP

-----102315 031159Z /11

R 030321Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3906

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054722

FOL LAGOS 2643 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOGADISCIO ADDIS ABABA
MOSCOW ROME MAR 2, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO

SUBJECT: THE HORN: LAGOS MEETING

REF: STATE 53461

1. IN AFTERMATH OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION MEETING YESTERDAY WITH
OBASANJO, WE HAVE OBTAINED INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF TALKS FROM
ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES (THE CHANNEL THE ETHIOPIAN
EMBASSY USES TO COMMUNICATE WITH ADDIS ABABA), ITALIAN EMBASSY
(THEY HAVE GOOD CONTACTS HERE ON HORN MATTERS), SAMLI CHARGE'
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 054722

AND WORKING-LEVEL MEA OFFICIALS. ALL SOURCES CONFIRM, AS PREDICTED
IN LAGOS 2267, THAT CONVERSATIONS PRODUCED ZERO RPT ZERO
PROGRESS ON NARROWING GAP BETWEEN SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDES
TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS OR THE KEY ISSUES AT STAKE.

2. MEA OFFICIAL TOLD ITALIAN EMBASSY THIS MORNING THAT, IN VIEW
OF POSITIONS NOW PRESENTED TO FMG BY DELEGATIONS FROM EACH SIDE,

NIGERIA WILL NOW RPT NOW CALL FOR MEETING OF EIGHT-NATION OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO MEA OFFICIAL, NEITHER THE ETHIOPIANS NOR THE SOMALIS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE. (COMMENT: ITALIANS ASSUME AND WE AGREE THAT THRUST OF NIGERIAN PRESENTATION TO COMMISSION WILL BE INABILITY OF NIGERIANS TO OBTAIN ANY SENSE OF COMPROMISE FROM EITHER SIDE.)

3. ACCORDING TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION CAME TO LAGOS ONLY IN DEFERENCE TO OAU PRINCIPLES AND STOOD FIRM IN TALKS WITH FMG REGARDING ETHIOPIAN INSISTENCE THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO MEDIATE. THE DELEGATION REFUSED TO ACCEPT OBASANJO'S ATTEMPT TO LINK A SOMALI WITHDRAWAL WITH SELF-DETERMINATION OR AUTONOMY FOR THE OGADEN. IN THE ETHIOPIAN VIEW, THE ONLY ROLE THE OAU CAN PLAY IS TO FORCE SOMALIA TO WITHDRAW. THE PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE OF THE OGADEN MUST BE LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO ETHIOPIA. NO RPT NO MEDDLING IN INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN MATTERS CAN BE TOLERATED FROM THE OAU OR FROM ANY COUNTRY, AFRICAN OR OTHERWISE. ETHIOPIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO A MEETING OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION PROVIDED THESE PRINCIPLES ARE UNDERSTOOD. THE DELEGATION WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORNING, FRIDAY, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THESE POSITIONS PUBLIC AT THE CONFERENCE.

4. SOMALI AMBASSADOR GARRAD IS CURRENTLY IN TRIPOLI WITH PRESIDENT SIAD. HIS CHARGE' REPORTS THAT MINISTER KASSIM TOLD OBASANJO DURING HIS VISIT HERE LAST WEEK THAT SOMALIA MIGHT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 054722

IN DESPERATION ACCEPT A 'MOVE FROM THE SOVIETS' TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HERE SAYS THIS STATEMENT FITS WITH A REMARK BY THE SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER TO FORLANI RECENTLY IN ROME TO THE EFFECT THAT SOMALIA MIGHT SOON HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO TURNING TO THEIR ERSTWHILE SOVIET PROTECTORS.

5. THE FMG IS PUZZLED BY SIAD'S TRIP TO TRIPOLI, INTERPRETING IT AS A POSSIBLE MOVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SOMALIA STILL HAS CARDS TO PLAY.

6. ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVE HAS INFORMED US THAT ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED POINT OUT TO FMG THAT US AS WELL AS SOVIETS MAINTAINED TROOPS OVERSEAS. INSTRUCTION CONTAINED A BREAKDOWN OF NUMBER OF US TROOPS ABROAD BY COUNTRY.

7. I WILL BE SEEING GARBA FRIDAY AT 12 NOON LAGOS TIME AND WILL REPORT RESULTS BY IMMEDIATE NIACT MESSAGE.
EASUM UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE054722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF:BJSLATER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0778
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803108/aaaadnzp.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 338524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 53461
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3122553
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE HORN: LAGOS MEETING
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, NI
To: USUN NEW YORK CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/338524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014